

May 19, 94  
03:45 PM

\*\*\* ATSDR Regional Information System 2.2 \*\*\*

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- RECORD OF ACTIVITY -

- Author Information -

Author: Jerome Joyce  
User ID: JYJ3

Action Date: 05/19/94  
Time: 03:30 PM

- Site Specific Information -

Name: MID-AMERICA REFINING COMPANY  
Address: City: CHANUTE  
County: NEOSHO State: KS Zip Code:  
CERCLIS #: KSD084091545 CRS #: 7-37 Region: 07 Congr. District: 00

- Site Status -

(1): NPL X Non-NPL RCRA Non-Site Specific SACM Federal\*  
(2): X Emergency Response Remedial Removal Other:

- Activities -

1 Incoming Call	Public Meeting*	1 Health Consult*	Site Visit*
2 Outgoing Call	Other Meeting	Health Referral	Info Provided
Confrence Call	Data Review	Written Respons	Training
Incoming Mail	Other Activity:		

- Requestor and Affiliation -

Requestor: ILENE MARTELLO  
Affiliation: EPA, CNSL, REGION VII  
Work Phone: (913)551-7807 Other Phone: ( ) -  
Address: 726 MINNESOTA AVE  
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101  
County: WYANDOTTE Congressional District: 00

- Contacts and Affiliations -

Program Area: Health Consult

Enclosures: N  
Signature:

Date: 05/19/94

RECEIVED

CC: 1. Carl Bailey  
2. Catherine Barrett  
3. file

*He Book*  
*Ilene Martello, CNSL*



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SUPERFUND RECORDS



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WID-AMERICA REFINING COMPANY

Action Date: 05/19/94

- Narrative Summary -

EPA has requested that ATSDR provide a health consultation on immediate actions to be taken to protect public health and safety in regards to this site. This facility commonly known as the MARCO refinery was operational from 1934 to 1981, at which time it apparently was abandoned leaving many of its product storage tanks, process equipment and an onsite production laboratory. Future use of this site is uncertain, as a company in Texas has purchased a portion of it and proposes to place it back in operation. In the meantime, numerous chemical and physical safety hazards exist which require prompt attention.

The refinery formerly cracked crude oil into various fractions and produced diesel fuel, jet fuel, gasoline, heating oil and kerosene. The bottom fractions were sold for asphalt manufacturing.

In 1986, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) performed a preliminary assessment and concluded that the site posed a potential threat to public health and the environment. In 1992, KDHE requested assistance from the EPA for this site because of its large size and the magnitude of hazards encountered. Site access is not restricted, and evidence of unauthorized persons convening in children playing around, and transients setting up temporary residence on-site has been noted. Food and drink residues were found on-site. Ten residences and seven commercial establishments are across the street, with the closest residence being less than 200 feet away. Surface run-off is intercepted by an unnamed intermittent tributary which empties into a perennial stream called Village Creek which is the source of drinking water for the city of Chanute.

In November 1992, EPA conducted an inspection of the facility and their findings corroborated the state's and identified additional problems. To summarize the hazards:

Mercury contamination of two onsite buildings. EPA personnel noted that elemental mercury was spilled/splashed about two structures - the laboratory and in another nearby building. Mercury vapor analysis showed Hg in the indoor air above the OSHA STEL of 0.03 mg/cubic meter. Floor sweepings in one building revealed mercury at 17,000 mg/kg.

Forty drums of waste liquids were discovered on-site. Corrosives and flammables were identified by Hazcat analysis. These were not segregated in regards to chemical compatibility and were in various stages of deterioration. The stage is set for an explosion or fire.

A large oily-water separator of unknown depth measuring 8 feet x 100 feet in dimensions was discovered full of water and oil by the



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..ID-AMERICA REFINING COMPANY

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- Narrative Summary (continued) -

inspection team. There was no fencing to prevent a person from blundering into it. This is particularly hazardous as a person falling into this biphasic liquid could find themselves in the undesirable position of attempting to swim on oil and would be suspended between the surface of the water and the bottom of the oil layer and could drown.

Friable asbestos was identified throughout the abandoned facility. Lagging on pipes running throughout the facility has been exposed alternately to wetting and dessication, thus rendering it friable and subject to transport throughout the facility as well as to off-site locations via wind currents.

Ninety-nine (99) above ground storage tanks are presently on site and are in various stages of rusting. The contents of these has not been identified. In addition, steel catwalks, ladders, and walkways attached to these structures are in various stages of oxidative deterioration and could collapse under the weight of unauthorized persons frequenting the site. Also, the empty storage tanks could be confined space death traps by asphyxiation and may contain explosive vapors.

A large concrete bottoms settling tank was noted on-site. This has a tarry substance under several feet of water. As noted for the oily-water separator, this could be a drowning hazard.

The laboratory was abandoned with much of its equipment and chemical reagents were left on-site. These have apparently been the objects of interest to unauthorized persons and the chemicals pose health threats by direct contact with them, or could initiate a chemical fire through incompatible introduction to each other.

- Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided -

1. ATSDR concurs with the KDHE and EPA that the site is an environmental hazard, and that the unsafe conditions enumerated in the body of this report constitute an urgent public health threat.
2. ATSDR recommends that immediate physical security measures be taken to restrict site access.
3. ATSDR further recommends that because of the numerous physical safety and hazardous chemical conditions presented by this site that removal actions be instituted as soon as possible.



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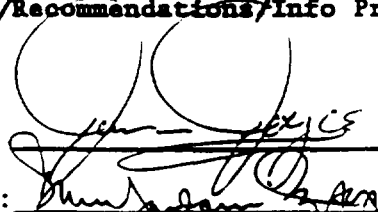
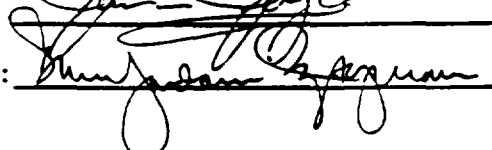
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MID-AMERICA REFINING COMPANY

Action Date: 05/19/94

- Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided (continued) -

Signature:  Date: 5/19/94  
Concurrence:  Date: 5/19/94

